Fraudulent claims for duty drawback

195. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of fraudulent claims for duty drawback and the amount involved is on the increase;

(b) whether duty drawback is claimed on account of fake/fictitious exports;

(c) in what manner Government propose to overcome such a menace; and

(d) the details of claimants of such fraudulent claims, which came to light of Government during the last 12 months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Cases of fraudulent claims of duty drawback including some cases of duty drawback claimed on account of fake/fictitious exports have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) All the Field formations including intelligence and vigilance wings have been alerted and have been directed to maintain strict vigil on suspected exporters. Checks have been incorporated in the automated customs clearance system to detect such cases. Cross verification with the Export Manifest before grant of Drawback, etc. is also being done to prevent unscrupulous activities by any exporter, particularly non-existent companies.

(d) 138 cases of fraudulent drawback claims involving an amount of Rs. 71.185 crores have come to the notice of the Government during the last 12 months.

Income tax dues on film artists

†196. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding amount of income tax on the famous film artists of the country during the last fiscal year togetherwith their names thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) outstanding income tax on each of them separately alongwith the time since when the same is pending;

(c) what efforts Government are making to recover the income tax; and

(d) what incentives Government have given for timely payment of income tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Income Tax Department does not maintain separate details of outstanding taxes in respect of categories such as famous film artists etc.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Recovery of Income Tax is being effected through the machinery as provided under Chapter XVII and Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The measures include, *inter-alia*, issuance of statutory notice u/s 220(2), charging of Interest and levy of Penalty for non-payment of dues, attachement of Bank Accounts of the defaulter and amounts owed by debtor(s) to such a defaulter, attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties of the defaulter, arrest of the defaulter, appointing a receiver for the management of the defaulter's movable and immovable properties, etc.

(d) Levy of interest and penal provisions for delay/non-payment of taxes can be avoided by ensuring timely deposit of Income tax.

Survey on GDP Growth Rate

197. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey has indicated that the GDP rate has declined in the first quarter of the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are prepared by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO). GDP estimates for the first quarter of the current